I claim:

1 1.   A method that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

2   storing an encrypted script;

3   storing a hypertext object including a reference to the encrypted script; and

4   storing a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object

5 including a reference to the decryption program,

6   whereby access to the hypertext object only allows access to the encrypted script.

1 2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored on a

2 server.

1 3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored as a

2 single downloadable object.

1 4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the decryption program is stored on a server.

1 5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored

2 as a single downloadable object.

1 6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext object, the encrypted script, and the

2 decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

9386 v4

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein storing an encrypted script further comprises the steps of:

2   selecting an encryption algorithm;

3   selecting an encryption key; and

4   creating the encrypted script by executing the encryption algorithm and applying the

5   encryption key.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the encryption algorithm is a symmetric encryption

2   algorithm.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the encryption algorithm is a public key encryption

2   algorithm.

1   10.   A method that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

2   storing an encrypted script that conceals and restricts access to the script;

3   storing a hypertext object including a reference to the encrypted script; and

4   storing a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object

5   including a reference to the decryption program,

6   whereby access to the hypertext object only allows access to the encrypted script.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored on

2   a server.

1   12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored as

2   a single downloadable object.

1   13.   The method of claim 10, wherein the decryption program is stored on a server.

1   14.   The method of claim 10, wherein the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored

2   as a single downloadable object.

15.   The method of claim 10, wherein the hypertext object, the encrypted script and the

2   decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

16.   The method of claim 10, wherein storing an encrypted script further comprises the steps of:

2   selecting an encryption algorithm;

3   selecting an encryption key; and

4   transforming the script into the encrypted script by executing the encryption algorithm and

5   applying the encryption key.

1   17.   The method of claim 16, wherein the encryption algorithm is a symmetric encryption

2   algorithm.

1   18.   The method of claim 16, wherein the encryption algorithm is a public key encryption

2   algorithm.

1   19.   A method that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

2   storing an encrypted script that conceals and restricts access to the script;

3   storing a hypertext object that modifies a reference to the script to refer to the encrypted

4   script; and

5   storing a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext

6   object, the reference to the script further modified to include a reference to the decryption program.

1   20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored on

2   a server.

1   21.   The method of claim 19, wherein the hypertext object and the encrypted script are stored as

2   a single downloadable object.

1   22.   The method of claim 19, wherein the decryption program is stored on a server.

1   23.   The method of claim 19, wherein the encrypted script and the decryption program are stored

2   as a single downloadable object.

1   24.   The method of claim 19, wherein the hypertext object, the encrypted script, and the

2   decryption program are stored as a single downloadable object.

9386 v4

1   25.   The method of claim 19, wherein storing an encrypted script further comprises the steps of:

2   selecting an encryption algorithm;

3   selecting an encryption key; and

4   transforming the script into the encrypted script by executing the encryption algorithm and

5   applying the encryption key.

1   26.   The method of claim 25, wherein the encryption algorithm is a symmetric encryption

2   algorithm.

1   27.   The method of claim 25, wherein the encryption algorithm is a public key encryption

2   algorithm.

1   28.   A method that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

2   receiving a request for a hypertext object including a reference to an encrypted script and a

3   reference to a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script;

4   transferring the hypertext object; and

5   transferring the encrypted script.

1   29.   The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

2   receiving a request for the encrypted script.

1   30.   The method of claim 29, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt

9386 v4

2   of the hypertext object.

1   31.   The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

2   issuing a request for the encrypted script.

1   32.   The method of claim 31, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt

2   of the hypertext object.

1   33.   The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

                transferring the decryption program.

1   34.   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of:

2   receiving a request for the decryption program.

1   35.   The method of claim 34, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by

2   receipt of the hypertext object.

1   36.   The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of:

2   issuing a request for the decryption program.

1   37.   The method of claim 36, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by

2   receipt of the hypertext object.

9386 v4

1   38.   A method that restricts access to a script comprising the steps of:

2   issuing a request for a hypertext object including a reference to an encrypted script and a

3   reference to a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script;

4   receiving the hypertext object; and

5   receiving the encrypted script.

1   39.   The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

2   decrypting the encrypted script; and

3   presenting the hypertext object on a display device.

1   40.   The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

2   issuing a request for the encrypted script.

1   41.   The method of claim 40, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt

2   of the hypertext object.

1   42.   The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

2   receiving a request for the encrypted script.

1   43.   The method of claim 42, wherein the request for the encrypted script is prompted by receipt

2   of the hypertext object.

9386 v4

1   44.   The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

2   issuing a request for a decryption program; and

3   receiving the decryption program.

1   45.   The method of claim 44, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by

2   receipt of the hypertext object.

1   46.   The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving a request for a decryption program; and

3   receiving the decryption program.

1   47.   The method of claim 46, wherein the request for the decryption program is prompted by

2   receipt of the hypertext object.

1   48.   A system that restricts access to a script comprising:

2   an encrypted script;

3   a hypertext object including a reference to the encrypted script; and

4   a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object

5   including a reference to the decryption program.

1   49.   The system of claim 48, further comprising:

9386 v4

2   an encryption key; and

3   an encryption program capable of encryption the script by applying the encryption key.

1   50.   The system of claim 49, wherein the encryption program implements a symmetric

2   encryption algorithm.

1   51.   The system of claim 49, wherein the encryption program implements a public key

2   encryption algorithm.

52.   A system that restricts access to a script comprising:

       an encrypted script that conceals and restricts access to the script;

       a hypertext object that modifies a reference to the script to refer to the encrypted script; and

       a decryption program capable of decrypting the encrypted script, the hypertext object

including a reference to the decryption program.

1   53.   The system of claim 52, further comprising:

2   an encryption key; and

3   an encryption program capable of encrypting the script by applying the encryption key.

1   54.   The system of claim 53, wherein the encryption program implements a symmetric

2   encryption algorithm.

9386 v4

1   55.   The system of claim 53, wherein the encryption program implements a public key

2   encryption algorithm.

9386 v4